

Rock dust which is used for the suppression of coal dust may potentially impact the groundwater flowing through the mine by the dissolution of the rock dust constituents into the water. This could result in increase concentrations of TDS or sulfates. Gypsum rock dust has been known to result in high TDS concentrations; therefore Co-Op has implemented the use of limestone rock dust. Mine water discharged into Bear Creek is monitored for TDS, as well as the in-mine water monitoring wells, to ensure increased concentrations do not result for the mining activities.

Hydrocarbons (in the form of fuels, greases, and oils) are stored and used on-site for the mining equipment. Spillage of these materials could potentially contaminate the groundwater in the permit area. [Section 9.0 of the PHC \(Appendix 7-J\)](#) discusses in detail the program, which C. W. Mining has implemented to prevent contamination of the groundwater from these sources. Road salting is also discussed. Abandoned equipment is discussed in [Appendix 7-Q](#).

Mitigation and Control Plans

No treatment of groundwater occurrence or other control measures in the present mine have been required. Interference of the groundwater regime has consisted of interception of local perched zones within the Blackhawk formation, with the significant portion of the flow coming from a sandstone channel located at the North end of the Blind Canyon Seam workings.

No treatment of groundwater occurrence or other control measures have been required or are expected to be required for the permit area. See the discussion on potential impacts in [Appendix 7-J](#).